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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Implementation of resolutions 50/214 and 50/215

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman
following informal consultations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling its resolutions 50/214, in which it decided, inter alia, that the vacancy rate would be 6.4 per cent for both Professional and General Service posts, 50/215 and 50/216 of 23 December 1995 and 50/230 of 7 June 1996,

Also recalling the request made to the Secretary-General in paragraph 7 of section II of resolution 50/214 to present, as soon as possible, and no later than 31 March 1996, to the General Assembly, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, a report containing proposals of possible savings for its consideration and approval,

Reaffirming the role of the current intergovernmental process in reviewing the efficiency and reform of the programmes and activities and the need to avoid duplication,

Recognizing the need to integrate all elements of internal reviews of efficiency in the Secretariat,

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[1] A/C.5/50/57/Add.1.

[2] A/51/7/Add.1.

Recognizing also the role of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts in management reforms and in ensuring adequate programme delivery and efficiency,

Regretting that the information requested by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on personnel- and programme-related issues, including, inter alia, whether consultants were hired, if any, to carry out work previously performed by staff on posts, was not provided,

Recalling its decision 50/506 of 17 September 1996,

1. Reaffirms its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987;

2. Reaffirms also part VI of resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, which relates to the involvement of different bodies in the budgetary process;

3. Reaffirms further the requirement of all Member States to fulfil their financial obligations as set out in the Charter of the United Nations promptly and in full;

4. Recognizes the detrimental effect of the withholding of assessed contributions on the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations;

5. Reaffirms that the authority to create, transfer and abolish posts under the regular budget is the prerogative of the General Assembly;

6. Recalls the authority of the Secretary-General as chief administrative officer, as provided for under Article 97 of the Charter;

7. Endorses the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] with the exception of the second sentence of paragraph 28 and subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

8. Expresses its concern that the report of the Secretary-General[1] does not contain a clear indication of the extent to which the approved vacancy level of 6.4 per cent has been exceeded in order to reach the savings called for in resolution 50/214;

9. Reiterates its decision that savings in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 should not affect the full implementation of mandated programmes and activities;

10. Reiterates that any proposal to change mandated programmes and activities is subject to prior approval of the General Assembly, through the Fifth Committee and other relevant bodies;

11. Notes the assurances of the Secretary-General that he will not take any decision on the involuntary separation of staff members, including those on the redeployment list, to achieve savings in the context of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/214;

12. Requests the Secretary-General, in the light of General Assembly decision 50/506, to report during the resumed session of the Fifth Committee on the progress achieved in the placement of the staff on the redeployment list, taking into account their skills and experience;

13. Requests that the information requested by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report[2] be presented no later than 1 March 1997;

14. Requests the Secretary-General, in connection with paragraphs 25 to 31 of the Advisory Committee report, to report, through the Office of Internal Oversight Services, no later than 1 March 1997, on the use of consultants and associated contractual procedures in the United Nations during the calendar year 1996;

15. Also requests the Secretary-General to review the effect of vacant posts on programme delivery and to recommend, if appropriate, restoration of the funding of these posts in the context of the budget for the biennium 1998-1999;

16. Further requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary actions to avoid duplication of efficiency review procedures;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to integrate and harmonize, where appropriate, efficiency reviews with programme planning and budget reviews;

18. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the relevant intergovernmental bodies on the efficiency proposals which have programmatic ar programme budget implications that require prior legislative approval;

19. Regrets that the programme performance report requested in paragraph 11, section II, of resolution 50/214 to be presented no later than the end of the fiftieth session, has not been submitted;

20. Requests the Secretary-General to present no later than 1 March 1997 the above-mentioned programme performance report on the impact of approved savings measures on the implementation of mandated programmes and activities, and decides to consider it as a matter of priority during the first part of its resumed session;

21. Decides that no changes to the budget methodology, established budgetary procedures, practices and Financial Regulations can be implemented without prior review and approval by the General Assembly, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in accordance with the agreed budgetary procedures.